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Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Globalization and interdependence

Letter dated 18 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, adopted at the Thirteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, which was held on 14 and 15 November 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 60 and 100.

(*Signed*) Ernesto Aranibar **Quiroga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Thirteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government
Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra

14 and 15 November 2003

"Social inclusion, engine for development of the Ibero-American community"

1. We, the heads of State and Government of the 21 Ibero-American countries, convened in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, as the Thirteenth Ibero-American Summit, reiterate our desire to continue to strengthen the inter-American community of nations as a forum for dialogue, cooperation and policy coordination by deepening the historical and cultural ties that bind us while respecting the specific characteristics of each of our many identities, which allow us to accept our unity in diversity.

2. We recognize that poverty reduction is essential to the promotion and strengthening of democracy and that it is a common, shared responsibility of our States and of the international community. We declare that poverty eradication requires the implementation of comprehensive policies established and developed by the State with the participation of all segments of society and that economic growth is a necessary, but not the only, condition for promoting a better quality of life, eradicating poverty and eliminating social exclusion.

3. We reaffirm our will to strengthen policies and strategies aimed at combating poverty and its root causes in order to establish the conditions for greater social inclusion, and we are convinced that greater exercise of citizens' rights, the promotion of equity and social justice, and full participation in decision-making on all national issues will be key factors in the development of our societies and the consolidation of democratic governance and stability.

4. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, respect for the sovereignty and legal equality of States, the principle of non-intervention, prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations, respect for territorial integrity, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the protection and promotion of all human rights in order to address the issues on the international agenda of a globalized world. We call for an effective strengthening of multilateralism and of the role of the United Nations as a forum for resolving international disputes, maintaining international peace and security and promoting economic and social development throughout the world.

5. We reaffirm that the Security Council is the body with primary responsibility for international peacekeeping and security. We are in favour of the broad reform of this body so that it can operate in a democratic, effective and transparent manner. We also support the broad reform of the United Nations system, including strengthened functions for the General Assembly and the Secretariat.

6. We reiterate our vigorous rejection of unilateral, extraterritorial application of laws and measures which contravene international law and the freedom of world

markets, navigation and trade, and we therefore urge the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the application of the Helms-Burton Act.

7. We stress the importance of the establishment of the International Criminal Court as the body responsible for the investigation, prosecution and punishment of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, which affect the entire international community. We note that distinguished Ibero-American jurists have been elected to the posts of judge and prosecutor for this Court, and we stress the importance of universal accession to and ratification of the Rome Statute.

8. We recognize that democracy, peace, justice, equity and sustainable development are closely related, mutually reinforcing concepts. In that regard, we reiterate our commitment to the strengthening of democracy, maintenance of the rule of law, protection and promotion of human rights, recognition of and respect for individual identity and the exercise of cultural diversity, and the right of each State to build its political system and institutions freely, without outside interference and in peace, stability and justice.

9. We also stress the importance of taking measures aimed at overcoming the socio-economic conditions of poverty and exclusion, which offer fertile ground for social and political unrest.

10. We reaffirm our conviction that the essential elements of democracy, independence and the balance of powers are: effective representation of majorities and minorities; freedom of expression, association and assembly; full access to information; and the holding of free, periodic, transparent elections on the basis of universal suffrage and by secret ballot as an expression of popular sovereignty, citizen involvement, social justice and equality.

11. We reiterate our determination to strengthen State institutions, ensure more effective, transparent public administration and promote the necessary mechanisms for greater participation by civil society in the decision-making process. The Ibero-American States will give public service reform policies a larger role in their governance agendas. In that connection, we undertake especially to increase the professionalism of the public service in accordance with the principles and guidelines of the Ibero-American Charter for the Public Service, which was adopted by the Fifth Ibero-American Conference of Ministers for Public Administration and State Reform, held on 26 and 27 June 2003 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

12. We reaffirm our will to combat public and private sector corruption and impunity, which constitute one of the greatest threats to democratic governance. We reiterate the importance of international cooperation, including, where necessary, extradition proceedings, in effectively combating corruption in each country's legal procedures. Access to information in the possession of the State promotes transparency; it is an essential means of combating corruption and an indispensable condition for citizens' participation and the full enjoyment of human rights.

13. We declare our firm commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with strict observance of international law, international standards for the protection of human rights and international humanitarian law. We are determined to strengthen our national legislation; to increase international cooperation in order to prevent, eliminate, combat and punish all terrorist acts, wherever and by whomever committed; and not to offer aid or refuge to those who commit, advocate or participate in terrorist activities, in accordance with the

relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. We support the work of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in combating this scourge, which constitutes a serious threat to peace, democratic stability and the development of peoples.

14. We reaffirm our ongoing commitment to strengthening efforts to combat the global problem of drugs and drug-related crime through a comprehensive, balanced approach involving the establishment of international cooperation based on the principles of State sovereignty and mutual, shared responsibility. We also reiterate our commitment to continued cooperation in combating the various forms of transnational organized crime.

15. We note the positive social impact of alternative crop development programmes in rural communities. We recognize the importance of effective, supportive programmes aimed at providing substitutes for illegal crops in order to promote the social inclusion of the poorest rural population groups and of rural and indigenous workers, and we urge the international community to step up its support for such programmes and to provide access to international markets for the export products resulting from such programmes.

16. The world economic situation and the decline in financing for development and in multilateral cooperation have a significant impact on our societies. The problem is aggravated by the volatility of financial and capital flows; the falling prices of export commodities; the persistence of trade barriers and non-tariff measures which hinder exports; and the effect of such practices, which, like subsidies, distort trade. We also express our appreciation for the constructive treatment accorded to the issue of trade during the negotiations between Latin America and the European Union. The aforementioned problems have had a highly negative impact on the balance of payments, which was already seriously affected by the wide fluctuations in the price of export commodities.

17. We reiterate the importance of access to all markets for the exports of developing countries. We trust that through donors' fulfilment of the commitments made at the Monterrey Conference, official development assistance will speed up the renewed growth of the past two years and will thereby help ensure an adequate transfer of financial resources to the poorest regions of the world, including middle-income countries with high poverty levels, and to poverty reduction programmes and projects.

18. We affirm the duty to resolve in an effective, just and lasting manner the external debt problem which affects the countries of the region, bearing in mind that structural adjustment programmes should respect the principles of equity and social justice and the need to combat poverty, hunger and unemployment. In order to alleviate the debt burden through multilateral negotiations and initiatives, we urge the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to strengthen mechanisms to prevent and resolve the financial crises which some Latin American economies are facing by evaluating, on a case-by-case basis and with the countries concerned, formulas to alleviate unsustainable debt burdens while respecting the principles of mutual responsibility, equity and the need to combat exclusion and, especially, while promoting strengthened democratic governance.

19. The unmet social needs of our peoples constitute a threat to democratic governance. In that connection, we recommend that the search for innovative financial mechanisms aimed at consolidating such governance and contributing to poverty eradication should be pursued.

20. We welcome with interest the proposal to establish an International Humanitarian Fund as a financing mechanism which would provide access to special funds that help mitigate the effects of poverty in developing countries.

21. We recognize the positive impact that progress of an institutional nature has had on poverty eradication in many countries; it has increased citizens' participation in the decision-making process, given the people greater access to justice and helped combat corruption. We also recognize, however, that in many cases the structural economic reforms carried out at such a high cost to our peoples and our Governments have not done enough to reduce inequalities and social exclusion and, in some cases, have even worsened these problems.

22. We are aware that social exclusion is a structural problem with deep historical, economic and cultural roots and that it cannot be overcome without a thorough transformation of our societies, which suffer from an unequal distribution of wealth. We recognize the urgent need to implement public policies aimed at reducing poverty and increasing the level of participation by citizens from all excluded sectors of the population in social policy-making, decision-making and the monitoring and supervision of financial resources allocated to the implementation of such policies, thereby giving them control of their own full development. By so doing, we will be able to give them access to land, jobs, a better quality of life, education, health, housing and other basic services.

23. We are certain that poverty cannot be eradicated through assistance programmes. Even when such programmes are a necessary stop-gap measure pending a genuine solution to the problem, society must not be allowed to develop a permanent split between those who work and those who receive assistance. We therefore propose to foster all necessary action to reduce the high unemployment rates which afflict our societies by generating conditions propitious to the development of business and productive investment and creating training and job-creation programmes to help unemployed persons find productive activities. We also reaffirm our conviction that decent work, as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO), is the most effective instrument for improving our peoples' living conditions and helping them share the fruits of material and human progress.

24. We affirm our commitment to the continued implementation of supportive sustainable development policies with a view to the planned, equitable achievement of the goals of eradicating extreme poverty, providing basic services to the entire population, improving the quality of life, protecting the environment, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and changing unsustainable production and consumption patterns. We therefore urge the developed countries, cooperation agencies and multilateral financial institutions to strengthen their assistance to development programmes and projects which implement these policies.

25. We also acknowledge that the economic crisis affecting the majority of Ibero-American countries and unequal resource and income distribution are leading to a considerable impairment and increased vulnerability of the food security of large groups of our population, especially in rural areas; this has a significant impact on

human development and the sustainable development of the region. We therefore consider it necessary to create instruments designed to promote measures such as the extension of credit and to strengthen training and technical assistance programmes which will allow the people most seriously affected to formulate integrated, participatory agricultural production strategies in order to make them self-sustaining and to guarantee comprehensive rural development.

26. We reiterate that agriculture and a harmonious relationship between rural and urban areas are essential to the full development of our countries. We undertake to generate increased opportunity for improving human, social and institutional conditions and capacities for rural life by promoting investment and creating a favourable institutional environment for the sustainable development of agriculture and for the promotion of agroindustry and its contribution to social development, rural prosperity and food security.

27. In addition, we propose to continue to take emergency measures to assist families and individuals whose per capita income falls below the poverty line and to guarantee them food security. In that regard, we note with interest the creation of a global fund to fight hunger. The fund, established in the context of South-South cooperation, has already received donations from private companies and contributions from sponsoring countries and could benefit from a North-South dimension, with political support and financial donations from the developed countries.

28. We recognize the fundamental role that microenterprises play in the development of our countries by generating wealth and employment, facilitating economic decentralization and making it possible to integrate broad segments of the population into the national economy. We also recognize the role that cooperatives and community associations play in the development of an economy characterized by solidarity and social usefulness, by helping to create jobs, promoting greater social integration and enabling all segments of the population, in particular women, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, to participate fully in national production. Therefore, in order to facilitate their development to the greatest extent possible, we commit ourselves to promoting the extension of microcredits, with due attention to gender equity.

29. We make the commitment to move forward in the formulation and implementation of regional policies to develop an infrastructure for regional physical integration, in view of its importance in reducing rates of poverty and social exclusion and increasing the level of participation and the interconnectedness of indigenous peoples. We also consider it necessary to give priority in regional policy in this regard to the specific needs and problems of the region's land-locked developing countries and the interior regions of transit countries. We appreciate the regional strategic importance of air transport to our countries and note that the Regional Air Transport Competitiveness Committee has begun functioning.

30. We recognize the need to develop a regional low-cost housing and human settlements programme oriented towards the poorest segments of society, with the aim of contributing in a substantive fashion to the efforts that our Governments are making through their national anti-poverty programmes; contributing to economic growth through the cross-sectoral linkages generated by construction activity; creating sources of income and employment for poor families; facilitating better governance; and helping to improve the critical environmental conditions now

prevailing in human settlements, thereby promoting sustainable development of the regional habitat.

31. We are aware of the importance of education as a social inclusion factor contributing to the eradication of poverty, the achievement of sustainable development and the building of prosperous and democratic societies. We reaffirm our commitment to reach the educational goals set forth in the Bariloche Declaration of 1995 and to promote a movement in favour of education. We also agree that our countries shall celebrate Ibero-American Education Day on 2 October.

32. We note the possibility of conducting technical studies and engaging in dialogue and joint negotiations with international organizations to explore the feasibility and means of implementing strategies, initiatives and mechanisms for converting foreign debt into investment in education, science and technology, depending on the interest of States, with the dual aim of reducing and alleviating our countries' debt burden while increasing real investment in those sectors, so critical to development.

33. We affirm that culture contributes to sustainable human development as a factor of social cohesion based on a holistic view of the human person that takes into account the multiplicity of human needs and aspirations. We recognize the wealth of our cultural diversity as a fundamental value of the Ibero-American community and stress the desirability of fully and freely promoting comprehensive and cross-cutting public policies that foster the production of cultural goods and services as sources of added value. The latter aspect should also be taken into account in present and future international trade negotiations.

34. Defending the rights and identity of the indigenous cultures of the Americas and of persons of African and other descent, which form a fundamental part of our societies, should be a permanent priority of our Governments, since such cultures make an essential contribution to the identity and development of the entire Ibero-American community. The full integration of those peoples into national life, based on the enjoyment of their cultures and their rights as citizens, is a common goal that can only be achieved through the development of interculturality.

35. In the conviction that culture can make a valuable contribution to social equity, we proclaim 2005 the Ibero-American Year of Reading and propose to unite the efforts of the public and private sectors to carry out the Ibero-American Reading Plan adopted at the Sixth Ibero-American Conference on Culture.

36. Health is a human right fundamental to sustainable development. The improvement of primary health care, the goal of health for all and by all, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and related targets and local health management capacity-building should become the basic strategic approaches to increasing social protection and achieving universal access to health. To that end, it is important to increase public investment in health, to utilize cooperative efforts among countries in the context of regional and subregional integration initiatives and to mobilize community support and international cooperation.

37. We declare that it is necessary for all our countries to make access to health care and social security systems equitable, universal and permanent and to focus our efforts on excluded sectors, with the aim of decreasing child and maternal mortality rates, preventing the spread of infectious and contagious diseases such as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), providing comprehensive primary health care

to the entire population and ensuring access to essential medications while respecting and promoting the customs and values inherent in each culture.

38. We also reaffirm our rejection of all forms of racial, social, religious or gender discrimination or discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability or other grounds. We consider it a matter of paramount importance to foster the fundamental role of the international and regional instruments on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to promote the cooperation of all countries in that regard.

39. In order to promote greater understanding and awareness of the issues related to persons with disabilities, mobilize support for ensuring their dignity, rights, well-being, full participation and equality of opportunity and strengthen the institutions and policies that benefit them, we proclaim 2004 the Ibero-American Year of Persons with Disabilities.

40. We recognize the economic and cultural contributions of migrants to the societies of their destination countries as well as to their communities of origin. We reiterate our commitment to achieve greater coordination and cooperation on the issue of migration and stress the importance of cooperation among the countries of origin, transit and destination to ensure full protection of the human and labour rights of migrants and their families and combat the illicit traffic in persons, which affects women and children in particular. In that regard we shall foster a wide-ranging dialogue among the countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants to facilitate proper management of migratory flows and the social integration of migrants. We also recognize the need to promote productive investment that creates jobs paying a decent wage in order to provide alternatives to the present migratory flows and eliminate the illegal traffic in persons. In addition, we shall promote cooperation mechanisms that simplify, accelerate and reduce the cost of the remittances that migrants send back to their countries of origin.

41. We also reiterate our commitment to combat the traffic in persons that affects women and children in particular by taking measures of prevention and victim protection that are in line with internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, ensuring, moreover, that return shall be voluntary, insofar as possible, and that the process shall provide for the security and dignity of the individual, in accordance with international law, in particular the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 1967, and the principle of non-refoulement enshrined therein.

42. We recognize that women play a fundamental role in social transformation processes and are a key factor in the economic development of our peoples, and we note that they are still subject to various forms of discrimination, exclusion and violence in our societies. We commit ourselves to adopting, supporting and furthering gender equity and equal opportunity plans and programmes to prevent violence against women as part of our national policies, so that women may develop their potential and participate on an equal footing in all aspects of public and private life and in decision-making in all spheres and at all levels.

43. In Ibero-America, children and adolescents make up the majority of the population. Many of them are born into poverty and exclusion, a situation that limits their personal skill development and compromises the future of our societies. We

acknowledge that our Governments owe a debt to our young people, and we commit ourselves to continuing to seek solutions that will allow them to take their full place in society and the labour market and participate fully in decision-making in all matters that concern them. We therefore reiterate our firm support for the activities carried out in pursuit of those objectives by the Ibero-American Youth Organization. We commit ourselves to continuing to develop sustainable public policies that will make it possible to meet the goals and targets agreed upon by the Ibero-American countries, particularly with regard to indigenous children and children of African descent, based on the principles of equity and social inclusion, by implementing a system of horizontal technical assistance throughout the region and seeking increased support from international cooperation, in keeping with the international commitment of the developed countries to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product to official development assistance.

44. We agree that the revolution in information technology opens up greater opportunities for social, economic and political participation. Information technologies are indispensable tools for promoting the economic and social development of our countries. It is important to prevent the information society from creating new forms of exclusion. Reducing the digital gap and developing the infrastructure for connectivity and universal access should be among the fundamental objectives of policies on building the information society. We consider that the Internet should operate under a broad, transparent, participative and democratic form of management in which Governments, international organizations, private enterprise and civil society all participate. We consider that, in addition to taking maximum advantage of these technological innovations, it will also be necessary to avoid new forms of technological exclusion and discrimination by developing cooperation projects in the area of information technologies. We propose to work towards these goals and the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity at the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society.

45. We are also aware that the protection of personal data is a fundamental right of individuals, and we stress the importance of the Ibero-American regulatory initiatives to protect the privacy of citizens as set forth in the Antigua Declaration, which has resulted in the creation of the Ibero-American Data Protection Network, open to all the countries in our community.

Ibero-American cooperation

1. We reaffirm that cooperation, as stipulated in the Bariloche Agreement on Cooperation in the Framework of the Ibero-American Conference, should be one of the key elements in the ongoing process of building the Ibero-American community as a place for political, economic, social and cultural convergence and inclusion of all segments of our societies.

2. We note the progress in the ratification of the Protocol adopted in Havana establishing the Secretariat for Ibero-American Cooperation (SECIB).

3. We value the important contribution made by the various Ibero-American cooperation programmes (see listed annex) to the development of the countries and the strengthening of the Ibero-American community, and we undertake to share information concerning their scope and results.

4. We reconfirm the mandate given to SECIB to seek additional sources of funding for Ibero-American cooperation programmes and projects from both the private sector and international organizations.

5. We express our satisfaction at the progress achieved by the CIBERAMERICA initiative towards the creation of a virtual Ibero-American community and therefore approve its conversion into a Summit programme, entrusting SECIB with the monitoring and development of the programme's legal and technical aspects, and the inclusion in its portal of, among other contents, a database on best practices in technical cooperation, to be identified by mutual agreement.

6. Recognizing that reading is an effective tool for social inclusion and a basic factor contributing to the social, cultural and economic development of our countries, we are pleased to make the Ibero-American Reading Plan (ILIMITA) a Summit programme.

7. We note in particular the accomplishments of the IBERMEDIA programme during the current year and reiterate our commitment to pursue the programme, in particular by creating an appropriate legal framework that will allow for the realization of the programme's full growth potential.

8. In keeping with the Lima Declaration, we welcome the inclusion of the Unión Iberoamericana de Municipalistas programme for training senior Ibero-American managers and officials in local government and management and the Iberoamérica Emprende programme on the list of Ibero-American Summit projects and note the application of this new approach to Ibero-American cooperation.

9. We acknowledge the work done by the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (Indigenous Peoples' Fund) in accordance with the mandates given at Lima, Peru, and Bávaro, Dominican Republic, and we welcome the presentation of the Executive Report on progress with its restructuring plan. We reaffirm our determination to continue to support the Indigenous Peoples' Fund through various means of contribution, and we invite international cooperation donors to continue to support it.

We welcome the invitation of the Government of Costa Rica and agree to hold the Fourteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government in the Republic of Costa Rica in 2004.

We accept with pleasure the invitation of Mr. José María Aznar López, Prime Minister of Spain, to hold the Fifteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government in Spain in 2005.

We express our gratitude to President Carlos D. Mesa and the people of Bolivia for the warm hospitality we experienced during the Thirteenth Ibero-American Summit in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

The heads of State and Government of the Ibero-American countries hereby sign this Declaration in two original versions in the Spanish and Portuguese languages, both texts being equally authentic, at Santa Cruz de la Sierra on 15 November 2003.

(*Signed*) Juan Carlos I de Borbón
King of Spain

(*Signed*) Carlos Mesa Gisbert
President of the Republic of Bolivia

(*Signed*) Néstor Carlos Kirchner
President of the Argentine Republic

(*Signed*) Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

(*Signed*) Ricardo Lagos Escobar
President of the Republic of Chile

(*Signed*) Alvaro Uribe Vélez
President of the Republic of Colombia

(*Signed*) Abel Pacheco de la Espriella
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

(*Signed*) Carlos Lage Dávila
Vice-President of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba

(*Signed*) Lucio Gutiérrez Borbúa
President of the Republic of Ecuador

(*Signed*) Francisco Flores Pérez
President of the Republic of El Salvador

(*Signed*) José María Aznar López
Prime Minister of Spain

(*Signed*) Alfonso Portillo Cabrera
President of the Republic of Guatemala

(*Signed*) Ricardo Maduro Joest
President of the Republic of Honduras

(*Signed*) Vicente Fox Quesada
President of the United Mexican States

(*Signed*) Enrique Bolaños Géyer
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

(*Signed*) Mireya Moscoso Rodríguez
President of the Republic of Panama

(*Signed*) Nicanor Duarte Frutos
President of the Republic of Paraguay

(*Signed*) Alejandro Toledo Manrique
President of the Republic of Peru

(*Signed*) Jorge Fernando Branco de Sampaio
President of the Portuguese Republic

(*Signed*) Manuel Durao Barrosso
Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic

(*Signed*) Rafael Hipólito Mejía Domínguez
President of the Dominican Republic

(*Signed*) Jorge Batlle Ibáñez
President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay

(*Signed*) Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías
President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela